

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for selecting a conversation logic at run-time for a workflow definition that includes at least one node with no hard-coded conversation logic, the method comprising the steps of:
 - a) maintaining a conversation logic repository that includes ~~at least one plural~~ conversation logic, wherein each of the plural conversation logic ~~that is external to the workflow definition, and wherein each of the plural conversation logic specifies a corresponding set of operations to be performed on a respective service;~~
 - b) when executing the node with no hard-coded conversation logic, dynamically discovering, by a computer, a service associated with the node with no hard-coded conversation logic, wherein the discovered service is selected from among plural services;
 - c) ~~determining a corresponding~~ selecting one of the plural conversation logic in the conversation logic repository based on the discovered service; and
 - d) dynamically plugging in the determined ~~conversation-selected~~ logic into the node at run time in the computer.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of when executing the node with no hard-coded conversation logic, dynamically discovering ~~[[a]]the~~ service associated with the node with no hard-coded conversation logic includes the steps of:
 - sending a service selection query;
 - in response to the service selection query, determining a selecting a service from among the plural services based on a service selection rule;
 - receiving a service reference; and
 - wherein the step of ~~determining a corresponding selecting the~~ conversation logic in the conversation logic repository based on the discovered service further includes the step of using the service reference to ~~determine a select the~~ conversation logic for the ~~determined selected~~ service.

3. (Currently Amended) A method for selecting a conversation logic at run-time comprising the steps of:

maintaining a conversation logic repository that includes ~~at least one plural~~ conversation logic, wherein each of the plural conversation logic specifies a corresponding set of operations to be performed on a respective service;

at run-time, sending a service selection query to an electronic services platform or other service broker, wherein the service selection query is for selecting a service from among plural services;

receiving, by a computer, a returned service identifier corresponding to the selected service; and

selecting, by the computer, a conversation logic from among the plural conversation logic in the conversation logic repository based on the returned service identifier.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 wherein a particular one of the plural conversation logic is for the exclusive use of a given ~~composite service~~ one of the plural services.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[3]]~~5~~ wherein another of the plural conversation logic is shared by two or more ~~composite of the plural~~ services.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 wherein the conversation logic is not defined in a workflow at process definition time, the workflow defining a procedure that executes services.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of: performing late binding of the selected conversation logic at run-time.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A system for dynamically selecting a conversation logic at run-time for a workflow definition that includes at least one node with no hard-coded conversation logic comprising:

[[a))] a workflow engine for processing workflow definition definitions;

[[b))] a conversation logic repository that includes at least one plural conversation logic ~~and that~~ [[is]]are external to the workflow definition, wherein each of the plural conversation logic specifies a corresponding set of operations to be performed on a respective service;
an engine configured to select one of plural services for execution of the node with no hard-coded conversation logic; and

[[c))] a dynamic conversation logic selection mechanism configured to receive for receiving a service identifier that is associated with [[a)]the selected service at run-time, and based ~~thereon~~ on the service identifier to select for selecting a conversation logic from the plural conversation logic for interacting with the selected service at run-time.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11 further comprising:

[[d))] a source for services~~[[:]~~, wherein the source discovers services the selected service based on a service selection rule;

wherein the dynamic conversation logic selection mechanism ~~(DCLSM) selects appropriate~~ is configured to select the conversation logic from the plural conversation logic repository based on [[a)]the discovered service.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12 wherein the source for services is one of a service broker, a service marketplace, an e-services platform, a company, and an entity.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein only services that have a conversation protocol compatible with one of the conversation logic available in the repository are selected.

1 15. (Cancelled)

1 16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11 wherein a particular one of the plural
2 conversation logic is for the exclusive use of a given ~~composite service~~ one of the plural services.

1 17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~[[11]]~~16 wherein another of the plural
2 conversation logic is shared by two or more ~~composite of the plural~~ services.

1 18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11 wherein the selected conversation logic is
2 not defined in the workflow definition at process definition time.

1 19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11 wherein the dynamic conversation logic
2 selection mechanism ~~performs~~ is configured to perform late binding of the selected conversation
3 logic at run-time.

1 20.-26. (Cancelled)

1 27. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein different ones of the plural conversation logic are
2 compatible with different ones of the plural services, and wherein selecting one of the plural
3 conversation logic comprises selecting a conversation logic that is compatible with the
4 discovered service.

1 28. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein different ones of the plural conversation logic are
2 compatible with different ones of the plural services, and wherein selecting one of the plural
3 conversation logic comprises selecting a conversation logic that is compatible with the selected
4 service.

1 29. (New) The system of claim 11, wherein the dynamic conversation logic is configured to
2 dynamically plug the selected conversation logic into the node.

1 30. (New) The system of claim 11, wherein the engine is configured to:
2 submit a service selection query to an electronic services platform to perform selection of
3 the service from the plural services.

1 31. (New) The system of claim 11, wherein different ones of the plural conversation logic are
2 compatible with different ones of the plural services, and wherein selecting one of the plural
3 conversation logic comprises selecting a conversation logic that is compatible with the selected
4 service.